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Monday, March 16, 1953

Ambassador Van Starkenborgh came to see me this morning. He is still worried about the Protocols and thinks the French are behaving unreasonably. John A. McKesson, an FSO Class 4, who used to be in Iceland where, amongst other duties, he handled ECA matters, asked to join the Mission to the Community of Six. He was followed by Tom Clark, Chief of the Steel Division in SRE, who had a similar impulse. I told them that as far as I was competent to judge our Mission was already adequately staffed, and I thought the chances were more in favor of its personnel strength being decreased than expanded.

I had a hair cut at the Crillon before lunching with Lowell Weicker in his apartment at 66 rue Pergolése. This is where Sammy Hood formerly lived. Lowell is working on the International Staff of NATO and is slated to replace Luke Hopkins when he leaves there in June.

I discussed with Martin Herz the French political situation and left with Tommy at 8:40 p.m. on an Air France plane for Rome.

I sent the following personal letter to J. Foster Dulles today:

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"Dear Foster:

"I shall bother you very seldom with personal letters, but I wanted you to know that I have not been entirely idle since I arrived in Europe. As regards the EDC, and the attitude of the immediately interested governments regarding it, I sent a telegram on the subject last week which I hope has been brought to your attention.

"Since then I have visited Germany, and tonight am going to Rome. I had a very satisfactory conversation with Adenauer, which has been reported to the Department by HICOM. Since Jim Conant was present I thought it best that he should indicate the tenor of the discussion, rather than doing so myself. If I can be useful here, it is indispensable that I not cut across the reporting lines of the Diplomatic Missions. Therefore, except in cases affecting Six Nation institutions, actual or prospective, I shall, unless instructed to the

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contrary, rely upon whomever accompanies me from the local Missions to advise the Department of what transpired. An exception to this will be when I see any of the foreign politicians unofficially.

Incidentally, I am sure that your appointment of Conant was a master stroke. He is wise, temperate, and will, I am confident, be a tower of strength to the President and yourself.

De Gasperi is in a difficult position politically. He will push the EDC Treaty through the Lower house of his Parliament if it seems practicable. If he decides not to do so, it will be only because he believes the odds to be insurmountable. I think we can entirely rely on his convictions and good intentions.

I hope you may have been able to accomplish something with Van Zeeland. He holds the cards, if only he could decide to play the winning trick. Usually he keeps his ace until an opponent has trumped it.

I am not, apart from the confusion and frustration, too pessimistic about the French attitude toward EDC -- it is a tale which follows familiar lines. The time element is the disturbing one, and we must bend every effort to have the French Parliament act decisively in June or July -- an earlier date is impossible. In order to do this, we must join others in a complicated political maneuver. I am inclined to think that there is no comfort to be obtained in this enterprise from the great majority of Gaullists, and therefore a large and favorable Socialist vote is essential.

Much will depend on your Washington conversations. No French Government can give a quid pro quo which with the best of good-will it can guarantee to carry through Parliament. However, we must have the assurance that Mayer and Pidault will aggressively and immediately press for ratification of the EDC. I have no doubts about the former, except for his having given hostages to fortune in connection with his investiture that he must carry out regarding the protocols and the Saar. He is honorable, tough and resourceful.

Pidault is an extremely erratic and unpredictable individual, but without the support of his party this cause is lost, and he is personally committed and pledged to its achievement. An important thing, it seems to me, in the Washington talks is that you get a record demonstrating that Mayer and Pidault are in accord as to their EDC program.

I shall not elaborate on the French situation since that will be done by Doug, to whom I have shown this letter.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ David Bruce

P.S. This needs no answer, and I shall look forward to seeing you in April. "

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